

Ecological Communities of Kentucky

The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission monitors exemplary occurrences of the following ecological communities. Exemplary ecological communities are relatively undisturbed or have recovered sufficiently from previous disturbances and have the flora and fauna that represents, to the best of our knowledge, the ecological communities that existed in Kentucky at the time of European colonization. This list was last updated January 2006.

For additional information about these communities, please contact Marc Evans – marc.evans@ky.gov.

Lacustrine Communities:

- Floodplain lake

Palustrine Communities:

- Acid seep
- Alluvial forest
- Appalachian acid seep
- Bottomland hardwood forest
- Bottomland hardwood swamp
- Bottomland marsh
- Calcareous seep
- Coastal plain slough
- Cretaceous hills forested acid seep
- Cypress swamp
- Depression swamp
- Floodplain ridge/terrace forest
- Floodplain slough
- Riparian forest
- Shrub swamp
- Sinkhole/depression marsh
- Sinkhole/depression pond
- Wet prairie

Riverine Communities:

- Cumberland Plateau gravel/cobble bar
- Mud flat
- Sand bar
- Typic gravel/cobble bar

Terrestrial Communities:

- Acidic mesophytic forest
- Acidic sub-xeric forest
- Appalachian mesophytic forest
- Appalachian pine-oak forest
- Appalachian sub-xeric forest
- Bluegrass mesophytic cane forest
- Bluegrass savanna-woodland
- Calcareous mesophytic forest
- Calcareous sub-xeric forest
- Coastal plain mesophytic cane forest
- Cumberland highlands forest
- Cumberland Mountains xeric pine woodland
- Cumberland Plateau sandstone glade
- Deep soil mesophytic forest
- Dolomite glade
- Dry limestone cliff
- Dry sandstone cliff
- Hemlock-mixed forest
- Knobs shale barrens
- Limestone barrens
- Limestone flat rock glade
- Limestone prairie
- Limestone slope glade
- Moist limestone cliff
- Moist sandstone cliff
- Pine savanna-woodland
- Red Cedar-oak forest
- Sandstone barrens
- Sandstone prairie
- Shawnee hills sandstone glade
- Siltstone/shale glade
- Tallgrass prairie
- Virginia pine forest
- Xeric acidic forest
- Xeric calcareous forest
- Xerohydric flatwood